

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1 after the title of the invention and before the "Field of the Invention":

--Related Application

This application is a national phase of PCT/JP2005/001703 filed on February 4, 2005, which claims priority from Japanese Application No. 2004-027891 filed on February 4, 2004, the disclosures of which Applications are incorporated by reference herein. The benefit of the filing and priority dates of the International and Japanese Applications is respectfully requested.--

The following paragraph will replace all prior versions of itself in the specification of the application.

1) On page 21, line 13, please amend the paragraph as follows:

[0039] The resultant steel wires (3.0mmφ) were then subjected to quenching-tempering. For the quenching, the conditions shown in Table 3 were used, while the tempering was carried out using a heating temperature of 450-530°C for all wires. The reduction of area (RA) and the average grain sizes (average γ grain size) of austenite grains (prior austenite grains) were measured on the respective quench-tempered wires. The results are shown in Table 3. Further, the wire quenching temperature was varied to change the average grain size of austenite grains (prior austenite grains). The average grain size of austenite grains was determined based on the intercept method subject to JIS G 0522 0552.